German citizens to boycott carpets produced by child labour. Further, he is reported to have said "don't buy goods, the productions of which profits exploitative child hunters", and that Rugmark carpets were free of this problem.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have no comments to offer at present.

(d) and (e) A National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) study sponsored by Development Commissioner, Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles titled "Reappraisal of Child labour in carpet industry" brought out in October, 1994 indicates that the employment of children in the carpet industry has come down marginally from the earlier level of 8 per cent to 7.5 per cent of the total workforce in the carpet industry estimated at 1.5 per cent million (both adults and children).

Correspondence by MPs to the Ministry

5158. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alies* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-payment of wages and salaries to employees of PSUs

5159. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of wages and salaries in a number of public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the problems of non-payment of wages and salaries to employees in certain sick public sector undertakings.

Ministry of Labour has already taken up the matter with the concerned administrative Ministries as well as the Ministry of Finance so that funds are made available in time for payment of salaries and wages to workers of sick PSUs.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए योजनाएं

5160. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**

चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए कोई विशिष्ट योजनाएं नहीं हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप कतिपय क्षेत्रों का विकास हो रहा है तथा अन्य क्षेत्र उपेक्षित हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं तथा इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Survey on child labour in agriculture, trade and industry in the country

5161. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the number of child labour employed in agriculture, trade and industry in the country;

(b) if so, what are the present details in this regard (State-wise);

(c) what is the number of child labour employed in each of the hazardous industries in the country (State-wise);

(d) how Government propose to educate and rehabilitate these children; and

(e) what is Centre's and states contribution including voluntary organisations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Children working in different areas of employment in India and state-wise distribution of child workers according to 1981 census are at statement-I and statement-II (*See* below) respectively .

(c) 20 lakhs children are estimated to be working in hazardous occupations. Separate industry wise/state-wise figures in this regard are not maintained.

(d) and (e) The National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Union Labour Minister to tackle the problem of child labour. The NAFCL has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level—the District to effectively handle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. This plan of action has been sent to all States/UTs for adoption.

Government is presently engaged in the process of preparing a major action plan to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations which is estimated at 20 lakhs. The Planning Commission has already earmarked an outlay of Rs. 34.40 crores for the year 1995-96 to enable the Government to launch the scheme in this regard.